

THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
GOVERNOR'S WATER POLICY ADVISOR

On behalf of Governor Locke, I want to take this opportunity to invite you to participate in an exciting new Initiative to develop a comprehensive regional water resource management strategy (Strategy) for Central Puget Sound. The Initiative is an important component of the Governor's *Washington Water Action Strategy* that describes both principles and outcomes to be achieved statewide. Because of the unique interconnectedness of water issues in King, Pierce and Snohomish Counties, the water strategy calls for implementation of the statewide strategy in this region through a three-county initiative. The legislature has supported this effort by providing funding to begin work on a regional water initiative in Central Puget Sound.

Over the next several months, agency staff from the Departments of Ecology, Health and Fish and Wildlife will work with local governments and interested stakeholders to develop a "Draft Strategy." The "Draft Strategy" will be further refined by requesting comments and incorporating them into a "Final Strategy" that should be complete by December 2002. A program for implementation of the Strategy will be developed simultaneously.

Enclosed with this letter, is a "Straw Proposal" that was developed over the past few months to serve as a starting point for discussions on the development of the Central Puget Sound Water Management Strategy. It is designed to stimulate comments, suggestions and recommendations about how to best develop the Strategy. Thus, this is the beginning—not a final Strategy.

I invite you to send written comments, suggestions and recommendations regarding the concepts contained in the enclosed "Straw Proposal." Those comments will be used to develop a more complete "Draft Strategy." Specific comments will be most helpful. Because the topics discussed in this "Straw Proposal" are suggestions, if you think they will work, please say so; if they can be improved, please say so. Please offer suggestions for better alternatives or modifications to this approach, or make recommendations to improve it.

Consider this proposal as a slate for you to draw on; a successful Strategy must include new and unique approaches to regional water issues. Please help to develop those approaches.

The following are questions to help you develop a response. They are not the entire range of potential questions, so feel free to propose your own solutions to our regional water management issues.

1. What do you see as the major challenges in water resource management in Central Puget Sound?
2. What are the potential solutions to those challenges?
3. Is a regional approach the best way to achieve those solutions?
4. How can we make the best use of and add value to existing water-related planning efforts?
5. What are your comments, suggestions and recommendations regarding the Early Action Program, Planning Phase and long-term Action Plan for the Strategy?

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6. Should the regions have a common vision and/or goals; do you support the proposed vision and goals; can you offer a vision and goals that are more appropriate?
7. We are proposing to develop the Strategy in a cooperative process by state agency staff and volunteers from governments and stakeholders within the region, is that appropriate or can you propose a more satisfactory approach?
8. Is the timeframe for the development of the Strategy appropriate? Should it be longer or shorter?
9. Will you participate in the development of the Strategy, and how would you choose to participate? If you cannot participate directly, would you like to be kept informed?

I would appreciate receiving your comments by June 30, 2002 at the address below. We encourage you to share the concept paper with colleagues and other interested parties. Thank you, we look forward to hearing from you and appreciate your cooperation.

Sincerely,

James C. Waldo
Governor Locke's Water Policy Advisor

Enclosure

STRAW PROPOSAL

CENTRAL PUGET SOUND REGIONAL WATER INITIATIVE

I. Introduction

The Central Puget Sound Water Initiative is a State sponsored process to develop a sustainable regional Water Resource Management Strategy (Strategy). The Governor's statewide water program, see Appendix #1, includes successfully completing and implementing a Central Puget Sound Regional Water Initiative within the Stillaguamish Snohomish, Cedar-Sammamish, Duwamish-Green, Puyallup-White and Chambers Clover watersheds in King, Pierce and Snohomish Counties. In its last session, the legislature authorized and appropriated funds to support this Initiative. The Governor's State Water Team will lead the development of the Initiative and will be assisted by state agencies in cooperation with governments within the region and regional stakeholders. The Strategy will provide solutions tailored to meet this region's water challenges.

The Central Puget Sound Water Initiative is a State sponsored process to develop a sustainable regional Water Resource Management Strategy.

This document is a "Straw Proposal" that is designed to stimulate comments, suggestions, and recommendations from parties within this region about how to best develop the Strategy for Central Puget Sound. The Strategy will be developed over several stages from those comments, and a more formal Draft Water Resource Management Strategy will be circulated for additional comment and refinement later this year.

This "Straw Proposal" a beginning point for discussions of the development of the regional Strategy. Thus, it is the beginning—not a final plan. Participants will have the

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opportunity to help frame the regional Strategy by choosing to participate over the course of the next several stages. The final Strategy be prepared and implemented after considerable work and full consideration of public comments on the draft Strategy.

II. What is the Central Puget Sound Water Initiative?

The Central Puget Sound Water Initiative (Initiative) is a cooperative state-sponsored process to develop a regional blueprint for decisions and actions that will support vibrant communities and a healthy environment. The outcome of the Initiative will be a Water Resource Management Strategy that includes an early action program and a long-term action plan.

The Strategy will contain a vision, goals and framework for focusing time, energy and money on the efforts most important to meeting regional water resource management challenges. The Strategy will also address how the state and the region can best coordinate local watershed planning, fish recovery and water supply planning.

The Strategy will be composed of three elements—planning, a long-term Action Plan and an Early Action Program. The planning phase will focus on the vision, goals, objectives, identification of key challenges, and approaches to successfully meet those challenges. It will be accomplished in a cooperative process involving state, local and tribal governments and other stakeholders and interest groups. The long-term Action Plan puts the planning effort to work and implements the Strategy.

The Strategy will be composed of three elements—planning, a long-term Action Plan and an Early Action Program.

Water resource programs and activities will be evaluated to assess their contributions to the success of meeting regional challenges and the Strategy. The Strategy will be revised from time-to-time to assure that it continues to meet future regional needs.

Strong incentives should be utilized to encourage significant commitments in support of a healthy environment. Funding should be identified and secured to support all aspects of the Strategy.

Recognizing that the long-term Action Plan will take time to complete, incremental steps should be taken during the development of the Strategy to advance the vision of vibrant communities and a healthy environment, and to support the regional goals.

This effort will be successful if the quality of thought and the process provide a blueprint to address regional challenges and a sufficiently broad base of support to implement the necessary decision and actions. The experiences gained, the lessons learned and the relationships fostered in the Early Action Program will inform the development of the long-term Action Plan.

The Strategy should include a mechanism for timely decision-making by all levels of government to enable and encourage projects that complement the regional vision and goals over both the short and long term. The Strategy should encourage resolution of water management issues at the lowest appropriate decision-making level.

The Early Action Program will draw together many excellent ideas, potential projects and possibilities that have been developed or are being currently developed within the region that address or begin to address regional challenges to water resource management. The Program should be developed in a manner consistent with the Strategy.

In sum, the State has a fundamental responsibility to manage water resources in the greater public interest. The Central Puget Sound Water Initiative seeks to develop

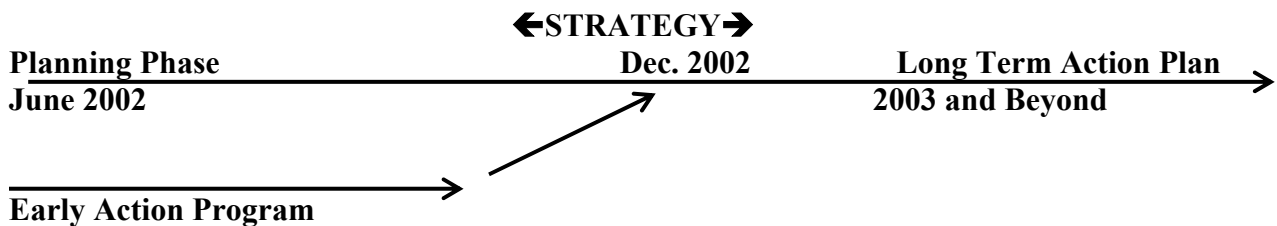
and implement a comprehensive, well-thought-out strategy to guide future regional water resource management decisions in the region. The Strategy should balance needs for growth, the economy and the environment through sustainable water resource management policies and programs.

Water Resource Management Strategy

Develops and implements a comprehensive strategy for making well thought-out water resource decisions that meets the needs of growing communities and a healthy environment.

Three Elements:

- (1) Planning
- (2) Early Action Program
- (3) Long-term Action Plan



<u>Planning Phase</u>	<u>Long-Term Action Plan</u>	<u>Early Action Program</u>
<p>During the Planning Phase, working groups, including state agency staff and others who choose to participate, will craft the Strategy and the steps necessary to implement that Strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develops regional vision and goals. • Develops framework to identify, evaluate, prioritize and achieve water management objectives and goals. • Identifies tools and options for achieving management objectives. • To the extent Tribes choose to participate, develop components that address their needs 	<p>The long-term Action Plan will continue the work begun in the Early Action Program and implement the Strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implements strategy • Components <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Identifies/resolves legal impediments. (2) Identifies/implements infrastructure needs. (3) Supports linkages to water resource related issues (4) Addresses water resource permit efficiency and accountability. • Adaptive and flexible to address ongoing water resource management challenges. 	<p>The Early Action Program is a program that will support immediate implementation of actions that will meet water resource management objectives throughout the Central Puget Sound region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent with Strategy. • Converts ideas into actions. • Potential Components: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conservation 2. Water Use 3. Demonstration Projects 4. Infrastructure 5. Instream flows

III. Why is the State Undertaking the Central Puget Sound Water Initiative?

Across Washington, water resource management systems are stretched to a critical point. Rapid population growth and accompanying development, federal Endangered Species Act listings, the need to attain federal drinking water quality standards, court interpretations of water laws, the need to find new ways to meet our environmental goals for water and the need for additional water supply infrastructure are just a few of the pressures. Water resource management in the Central Puget Sound is no exception to that list of statewide pressures. Some of the challenges facing the region include:

- Assuring the availability of water at the right time and place to meet the needs of a growing population and the needs of fish.
- Assuring that the water provided for the growing population meets the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act.
- Incorporating sources of non-potable water supply, such as reclaimed water, stormwater and rainwater harvesting
- Improving instream flows for many tributaries and some mainstem rivers as necessary for healthy populations of fish.
- Making efficient use of our water.
- Incorporating reclaimed water as a source of non-potable water supply.
- Fashioning a better implementation program for existing watershed planning efforts.
- Incorporating and building on existing watershed planning efforts in a manner that assures that regional water resource management needs are met with a comprehensive regional strategy.
- Fashioning solutions to local water resource management conflicts that appear to have no solution in a local context and no comprehensive regional strategy to provide opportunities for their resolution.
- Developing coordinated program to increase the opportunity to meet those federal laws and regulations that affect water resource management.
- Addressing issues related to Indian tribal treaty rights and the substantial state issues relating to those rights that affect regional water needs for the environment and growth.

Effective and efficient water resource management, which will provide adequate water for a growing population and a healthy environment, requires that water resource management challenges be addressed in a strategic manner. These challenges, and certainly others yet to be identified, are the reasons the state is pursuing a regional water resource management initiative for Central Puget Sound. The region will continue to grow and environmental needs will remain, and

Effective and efficient water resource management requires that water resource management challenges be addressed in a strategic manner.

both must be met. If the citizens here today, and those yet to come, are to have vibrant communities and a healthy environment, the region must work to address these challenges today.

A. How is the Central Puget Sound Initiative Different From Other Water Resource Processes Currently Underway in the Region?

Within the Central Puget Sound region there are currently more than 20 active planning efforts related to water resources and fish issues. For example: The Shared Strategy¹ focuses on Chinook salmon recovery issues throughout the region. The Department of Ecology has begun Instream Flow Protection Program studies within WRIA 5. Many utilities have developed sophisticated and successful conservation programs. King County is developing a technical framework for normative flows. Pierce County has developed a coordinated water system plan that is still being amended. Snohomish County has recently developed a groundwater management plan and is beginning a subbasin study. There are successful watershed planning efforts throughout the region. The Central Puget Sound Water Suppliers Forum has completed a water supply outlook and drought response plan. Each local utility has a water planning process. The list goes on. These are worthwhile efforts.

The question that must be answered is “with all these local processes going on within the region, how is the Central Puget Sound Initiative not just another planning process?” The reasons are these:

- None of the local processes has a regional focus on water resource decision-making. The best solutions to water problems in central Puget Sound may not exactly fit within any current process.
- There are no current linkages between planning processes to assure that value is added to those processes, to enhance those efforts by providing regional water resource management tools, and to complement those processes by assuring that solutions to water resource management challenges identified locally can be successfully met within a regional framework.
- There is no regional long-term water resource management action plan.
- There is no regional strategy to accelerate water resource management compliance with the federal Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act requirements.
- There is no regional strategy that links the needs for water to implement the State Growth Management Act and water resource decision-making.

¹ “The Shared Strategy” is a proposal to people working to save salmon in the Puget Sound region to combine efforts and enhance the ability to be successful. It was developed following a meeting at Port Ludlow in 1999 with over 150 salmon leaders from throughout Puget Sound. At the Port Ludlow meeting a group representing tribes, federal, state and local government agreed to develop a Strategy to facilitate a coordinated regional approach to salmon recovery.

- There is no regional context or set of regional tools for state and local governments that support achieving regional water resource management decisions, objectives and actions.
- There is no regional strategy to guide and prioritize state and local government decision-making to expedite projects that support a regional vision and goals.
- There is no regional program to integrate economic and environmental needs in an effective and efficient manner by assuring that environmental mitigation and compliance resources are put to the highest and best use at the regional level.
- There is no regional water conservation program to identify and evaluate regional opportunities for the uses of reclaimed wastewater, industrial wastewater, stormwater or rainwater.
- There is no comprehensive water resource management database to support water resource decisions.
- There is no regional program to develop and implement pre-identified projects that are ripe for action.

A comprehensive water resource management strategy should address these needs.

B. Why Should Water Resources be Managed in a Regional Context?

The current focus of watershed planning in Central Puget Sound is on individual watersheds. Most of the watersheds in the region transcend local government political boundaries and thus create a need for a multi-county watershed planning process. However, existing planning process are not currently designed to plan for and manage water in a manner that meets regional needs.

Many challenges could be managed better, sooner and at less cost when addressed regionally.

Many challenges could be managed better, sooner and at less cost when addressed regionally. For example:

- Tribal water rights exist in each watershed within the region, and in many cases a single tribe has water rights in several watersheds, but no tribe has water rights across the entire region. However, water use is increasingly being used as a regional resource and can affect tribes in multiple ways. There is no regional approach designed to address this issue.
- Water conservation in the Central Puget Sound, as in other areas of the state, is essentially voluntary. Some utilities are national leaders in water conservation while others have minimal conservation programs. There is no regional water conservation program. Because water is being increasingly used as a regional resource, and because it will become more so, a cost-effective conservation program for the region could be developed that encourages water conservation.

- Wastewater and stormwater are conveyed in systems that transcend watershed boundaries. However, today there are no programs that integrate reclaimed wastewater, stormwater or rainwater as part of a future regional water supply network.

A regional water management strategy will add value to those local water planning processes and programs that are currently underway. Local planning processes do the best job of identifying local problems related to needs for water for growth and the environment; those processes can be enhanced and complemented by a regional strategy that can bring regional tools and options to fix those problems. For example: It is possible to exchange water that is currently available from one source to meet needs in other areas of the region during critical times.

Additionally, identification of regional water resource management projects and programs will help the state and local governments secure funding from multiple sources. A state and regional partnership with a regional focus can also assure that regional problems can be addressed sooner and at less overall cost to the state and the region.

IV. What is the Area Included Within the Initiative?

The area proposed for inclusion within the Initiative has six Water Resource Inventory Areas: 5,7-10, and 12. See Appendix #2. The north end of the region begins near Arlington, then traversing southeast through Granite Falls, Startup, Woodinville, and Carnation to North Bend, Black Diamond, Enumclaw, Orting and Spanaway near the south side of the region; then along Puget Sound through Tacoma, Seattle, Edmonds, Mukilteo, Everett, Tulalip, then back to Arlington. Within this region are large parts of 3 counties, four Indian Reservations, and numerous cities, towns and special purpose districts.

A brief look at some of the geographic, population, economic and environmental attributes will yield a better description of the scope of the region. For example:

- Six of the state's ten largest cities.²
- A larger concentration of cities than any other comparable geographic area in the state.
- Over 3 million people.³
- Forecasts that the population of the region will increase by over 1.4 million people by 2025.
- Over 62% of the state's personal income is generated within the region--totaling over \$108 billion per year.⁴
- Over 22,310 manufacturing, wholesale and retail trade establishments generating 69% of the state's total sales receipts or shipments for those categories.⁵

² Seattle, Tacoma, Bellevue, Everett, Federal Way and Kent.

³ The 2000 Census reports 3,043,878 persons living in the three-county region.

⁴ Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis; 1998-99.

- Approximately 610 Group A water suppliers (15 or more connections), 2,900 Group B water suppliers (less than 15 connections), and uncounted thousands of domestic wells supply water.
- Regional uplands that includes the state's most urban region.
- Five species of salmon, steelhead and bull trout and other freshwater fish species that provide food for people, jobs for fishers, are integrally linked to the sacred customs of tribes within the region and are an indicator of regional ecological health.

Certainly, the Central Puget Sound region provides a particular set of challenges. The region requires solutions tailored to fit these challenges. The goal is to develop a water resource management strategy that meets the needs for growth, the economic vitality of the region and a healthy environment.

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V. How will the Central Puget Sound Water Strategy be Developed?

The state, through the Central Puget Sound Water Initiative, will develop a regional Water Resource Management Strategy through an open and cooperative process. The Strategy will include two phases, planning and long-term action. It will also include an Early Action Program.

The State will develop a regional Water Resource Management Strategy through an open and cooperative process.

A. Why have a Multi-stakeholder Cooperative Process?

Participation in the development of the Strategy is voluntary. The success of the Strategy will be measured not only by meeting regional challenges but also by long-term support from a wide range of citizens and interests. To assure participation to the greatest possible extent, the Strategy will be developed in an open process designed to engage and inform potentially affected stakeholders. The state will actively encourage and seek out broad participation.

The state seeks to identify potential water resource management challenges and address them in the Strategy; doing so will assure that a full range of solutions will be developed. A successful Strategy will also avoid the imposition of a pre-determined plan on the region; to be successful, the Strategy and Action Plan must evolve from the creative ideas of the participants. Thus the Strategy should be developed through a process that focuses on cooperation and support from all levels of government and stakeholders.

⁵ Source: U.S. Census Bureau; 1997 Economic Census for Washington State, Snohomish, King and Pierce Counties.

B. What is the Planning Phase?

During the Planning Phase, working groups, including state agency staff and others who choose to participate, will help craft the Strategy and the steps necessary to implement that Strategy. Participation in the working groups will be open to all who choose to assist. A significant focus of the Planning Phase will be to assure that existing planning efforts and programs currently underway in the region are incorporated into, complemented and enhanced by the Strategy. Other elements of the Planning Phase will include:

During the Planning Phase, working groups, including state agency staff and others who choose to participate, will craft the Strategy and the steps necessary to implement that Strategy.

1. A regional vision and goals for the Strategy will be developed during this Phase. The vision is a clear simple statement of intent that binds the region together and is an expression of what the region seeks to jointly accomplish. A vision should stimulate the region to continue action and create multiple ways to work toward the vision. The goals should be the aspirations of the region; adopting them should direct progress toward achieving the long-term Action Plan.

The proposed vision for the region is:

Water resources are managed in a manner to support vibrant communities and a healthy environment.

Adopting goals for the Strategy should help direct progress toward achieving the regional vision, and will serve as guides for the Early Action Program. The following goals are proposed for this effort:

- a. *The Strategy should identify how water resources are best managed to support both vibrant communities and a healthy environment.*

The centerpiece of the Strategy is the dual emphasis on vibrant communities and a healthy environment. “Vibrant Communities” includes a strong economy, and providing water for growth. It should be more than economic objectives and should include the quality of life of citizens here today and those generations yet to come and recognizes the importance of a healthy natural environment. A “Healthy Environment” should mean more than just providing water for fish. It should require addressing the interrelatedness of human and environmental needs.

- b. *The Strategy should be broad in scope and should have links to all water-related planning and resource management efforts including water supply, water quality and salmon recovery.*

The Strategy respects federal, state, tribal and local programs while pursuing solutions to problems within the region. When complete, the Strategy should reflect watershed, regional water supply, growth management, surface water and wastewater planning efforts as well as federal requirements, commitments and agreements.

c. The Strategy should be flexible and adaptable.

The Strategy should promote cost effective and innovative methods to provide water for vibrant communities and a healthy environment. Among the array of currently identifiable tools are compliance, education, water reuse, conservation of drinking water, additional infrastructure, and better stormwater management, practices and improvements. The Strategy should provide for the incorporation of newly acquired technologies, science and experience in water management.

d. The Strategy should provide direction to develop and manage water resource data that is necessary and sufficient for state and local agencies to carry out their water resource management responsibilities.

The lack of adequate water resource data has historically hindered effective water resource management. The Strategy should include a water resource data acquisition framework that should be maintained and supported by regional participants.

2. The Strategy will identify potential challenges in water resource management within the region, and the development of one or more ways to meet those challenges. In building the components of the Early Action Program, any newly identified solutions to challenges will be categorized as an early action or long-term action. If the solution can be achieved as a component of the Early Action Program, it will become part of that program. If a solution to a challenge is identified as being more appropriately resolved over the long-term it will be implemented in the long-term Action Plan.
3. The Strategy should also include a framework for identifying, evaluating and achieving regional water resource management objectives and meeting our goals. State and local government agencies and water managers that decide to participate should use the framework to assure that regional water needs for both growth and the environment are advanced simultaneously over time.
4. The Strategy should identify the array of tools and options necessary to assure that the needs for growth and the environment can be achieved.
5. The Strategy should also address how the tribes and federal agencies may choose to participate in the Central Puget Sound Initiative now or in the future.

C. What is the Time Schedule for the Planning Phase?

The Strategy will be developed in a series of planning stages. See Appendix #3. The first stage is to widely distribute this “Straw Proposal” and seek responses by the end of June. The responses will consist of written comments, suggestions and recommendations regarding this “Straw Proposal.”

During the second stage, a volunteer working group will assist in developing the Strategy and will incorporate elements of the written responses into a “Draft Strategy” over the summer of 2002. The “Draft Strategy” will be completed by September 2002. It will again be widely circulated for written comments, suggestions and recommendations to improve the “Draft Strategy.” Comments to the “Draft Strategy” should be received by October 1, 2002.

In the third stage, the working group will incorporate comments into a proposed “Final Strategy.” The proposed Final Strategy will be completed with recommendations to the Governor for approval by the end of December 2002.

D. What is the Early Action Program?

The Early Action Program will support immediate implementation of actions that will meet water resource management objectives throughout the Central Puget Sound region. It will be an adaptable and flexible program that can be modified to meet additional water resource management objectives and projects identified during the development of the Strategy. The Program should identify and evaluate ideas, and convert them into actions to support, or begin to address current water resource management challenges. It will include components that provide a foundation for the Strategy. The Working Group must know enough about the proposed projects to recommend action now, and the parties necessary to implement the actions must be ready to implement them now.

The Early Action Program will support immediate implementation of actions that will meet water resource management objectives throughout the Central Puget Sound region.

Working groups, staffed by state agencies and volunteers from within the region, will coordinate with local water resource planning processes and programs to assure that the Early Action Program complements those existing efforts. Potential components of the early action program could include certain actions in some or all of the following areas: water conservation, water use, pilot projects, assessing legal impediments, decisions on infrastructure, linkages to other water resource related processes, decisions to improve instream flow, fish passage and screening and recommendations to improve

water resource permit efficiency and accountability. The knowledge and experience gained from the Early Action Program will help inform the development of the Water Resource Management Strategy and the long-term Action Plan. The Early Action Program must be consistent with the Strategy as it is finalized.

1. What is the Schedule for the Early Action Program?

The development of the Early Action Program will begin in June 2002. There will be a transition period between the Early Action Program and the beginning of implementation of the Strategy or long-term Action Plan. The Early Action Program should end by the end of December 2002 or early 2003. See Appendix #3.

2. What are the Components of the Early Action Program?

The State has identified five potential areas for the Early Action Program. These objectives will be accomplished within the framework of current state law. During the development of the Program, the working groups will identify legal or regulatory impediments to more fully accomplishing the management objectives. Those impediments will be brought to the attention of the Governor's Water Team so that an appropriate method for addressing the issue can be pursued. The potential Components of the Early Action Program could include the following:

- a. Conservation Component.** Water conservation is fundamental to water management, and an effective conservation program is one key to successfully dealing with competing regional needs for water for growth and a healthy environment. Opportunities to enhance water conservation now throughout the region could be identified; current efforts could be supported and suggestions for new legislation could be offered as part of the Strategy.

The Strategy must also address the efficient use of water after it leaves the first-time consumer. The conservation component will include the development of a framework for identifying and evaluating the use of reclaimed wastewater, industrial wastewater and stormwater and use of rainwater.

- b. Water Use Component.** A comprehensive water resource management strategy cannot be effective unless adequate water resource data is available for appropriate decision-making. Stream gauges are necessary to accurately measure the flows of the region's rivers and streams. Meters on significant diversions are necessary to determine the amount of water diverted at various times throughout the year. A program must be developed to protect existing users' legal rights to water from illegal uses, and must assure that only those with legal rights or claims to do so are using the state's water. It is also important to understand the affects that impervious surfaces, stormwater diversions and wastewater infiltration and intrusion have on surface and groundwater sources. A working group on this subject could identify proposals for early actions in this area.
- c. Demonstration Projects Component.** Numerous studies by various water resource and fish planning processes have identified projects that are ripe for action. The Early Action Program could develop a proposed set of projects and a proposed program to implement them.

The demonstration projects as a group should address the need for water for growth and for the environment simultaneously, and could include water quality, quantity and habitat components.

- d. Infrastructure Component.** The Early Action Program could identify those water resource management tools that are currently available and begin implementation of those that are currently “doable.”
- e. Instream Flow Component.** The Early Action Program could focus on where and how flows can be improved in important tributaries that provide critical fish habitat where instream flows are not yet established or met.

VI. What is the Long-Term Action Plan?

The long-term Action Plan will continue the work begun in the Early Action Program and implement the Strategy. It will be adaptive so that newly identified water management challenges and objectives can be incorporated into the Action Plan, and continue to guide regional water management decisions. The long-term Action Plan may require changes in state law, regulations and/or funding.

The long-term Action Plan will continue the work begun in the Early Action Program and implement the Strategy.

The work begun in the Early Action Program that coordinates with existing water planning processes and programs will also be continued in the long-term Action Plan. That effort will assure that the regional vision and goals will guide long-term water management decision-making. The long-term Action Plan will also assure that water needs for growth and the environment are advanced together over time. It will assure that water users meet their obligations to the environment, and that they have the tools needed to meet growth, and it will continue water conservation efforts throughout the region.

The long-term Action Plan should also include components that provide the legal and physical tools to help the region accomplish its vision of vibrant communities and a healthy environment. It should also include components that link water related planning processes and activities, and assure that water permit decision-making is efficient and accountable. Those components should include

- 1. Legal Impediments Component.** The long-term Action Plan will identify legislative and regulatory actions that are necessary to remove impediments to the development and implementation of the Strategy.
- 2. Infrastructure Component.** A comprehensive water management strategy must include a full array of tools that assure that water is delivered where it is needed at the appropriate time and in sufficient quantity and quality to meet the needs for growth and the environment, and develop a framework for identifying and evaluating their use for meeting those needs. Among the array of tools evaluated should be

interties, source exchanges, storage, conservation and new sources of supply.

3. **Linkages Component.** Water use within Central Puget Sound is affected by many local, state, tribal and federal activities, planning processes and programs. The long-term Action Plan should provide linkages to those concurrent activities to provide added value to the region. Additionally, the long-term Action Plan should link to existing watershed planning processes to complement, enhance and support those processes by incorporating that work into the regional Strategy. It will also link to The Shared Strategy to assure that long-term actions enhance regional salmon recovery efforts and that regional salmon recovery work is a component of the Action Plan. It will clarify the actions necessary to fulfill the resource needs necessary to implement the Growth Management Act. Finally it will work to address issues related to the Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act.
4. **Instream Flow Component.** Establishing instream flows is inextricably linked to meeting needs for the environment and growth. The long-term Action Plan should integrate with watershed planning groups to identify, evaluate, and determine the needs for adequate instream flow protection in the region. The long-term Action Plan could focus on where and how flows can be improved particularly in important tributaries that provide critical fish habitat where instream flows are not yet established or met.
5. **Water Resource Permit Efficiency and Accountability.** A sustainable water resource management strategy will be greatly aided by better integration of economic and environmental needs. Sustainability can be accomplished in a cost effective and efficient manner by assuring that environmental mitigation and compliance resources are put to the highest and best use at the regional level, rather than applied to prescriptive requirements that may not provide sufficient aquatic environmental benefits. The long-term Action Plan should include ideas or proposals for streamlining the permitting process for projects that can deliver better environmental performance than can be achieved through conventional means.

As new challenges to water management are identified, the long-term Action Plan should develop solutions or options to meet those challenges. While the ultimate goal of the long-term Action Plan is to achieve sustainable water resource management, it must be recognized that the region will have to work continuously to achieve that goal over time. Programs and activities must be measured and evaluated according to the vision and goals identified in the Strategy. The Strategy will be adaptable and flexible and will be re-evaluated periodically to assess progress in meeting the goals for the region.

The long-term Action Plan will be implemented by the State of Washington and its various agencies. Local governments and water resource decision-makers will also share

that responsibility to the extent that they have jurisdiction on an element of the long-term Action Plan. Federal agencies and Tribes will also have major roles to fulfill to the extent they choose to participate in this effort.

VIII. How Will Tribal Water Issues be Addressed?

Tribal needs and water rights are key issues that could be addressed in the development of the Water Resource Management Strategy. Those rights must be evaluated in the light of state and federal law. The Tribes will decide the extent to which they will participate in the Central Puget Sound Water Initiative. They will also determine the extent to which their needs can be addressed by this process. The opportunity for them to participate will remain open, so they can decide when and to what extent to participate.

IX. Conclusion

This “Straw Proposal” represents the first in a series of cooperative steps with the State, local governments and regional stakeholders to develop a Water Resource Management Strategy tailored to meet the needs of this region. It will serve as a starting point, not the ending, for discussions on the components of that Strategy. Thus, the outcome of the Strategy will be determined along the way, not at the beginning. It is up to the participants to help shape the best outcome.

APPENDIX #1

Washington Water Action Strategy

January 2001 (updated October 2001)

Principles and Success Measures

Principles affirming both people *and* fish

- Meet the needs of a growing population and a healthy economy statewide
- Meet the needs of fish and healthy watersheds statewide
- Advance these two principles together, in increments over time

Success in four years ~ The Outcomes by 2005

- Growing communities have reliable supplies, better tools and clear environmental obligations
 - Fish flows are improved in 16 critical basins from early actions; and fish plans and agreements are in place and being implemented in these basins
 - Water users are saving and reusing more water
 - Water supplies are available for current and new economic opportunities
 - Watershed plans and strategies are adopted and being implemented
 - Regional strategies for Central Puget Sound, Columbia River water allocation and Yakima Basin are in place and being implemented
 - No backlog for water rights changes
 - Funding for infrastructure to implement plans and strategies

Success in four years – The system is working in 2005

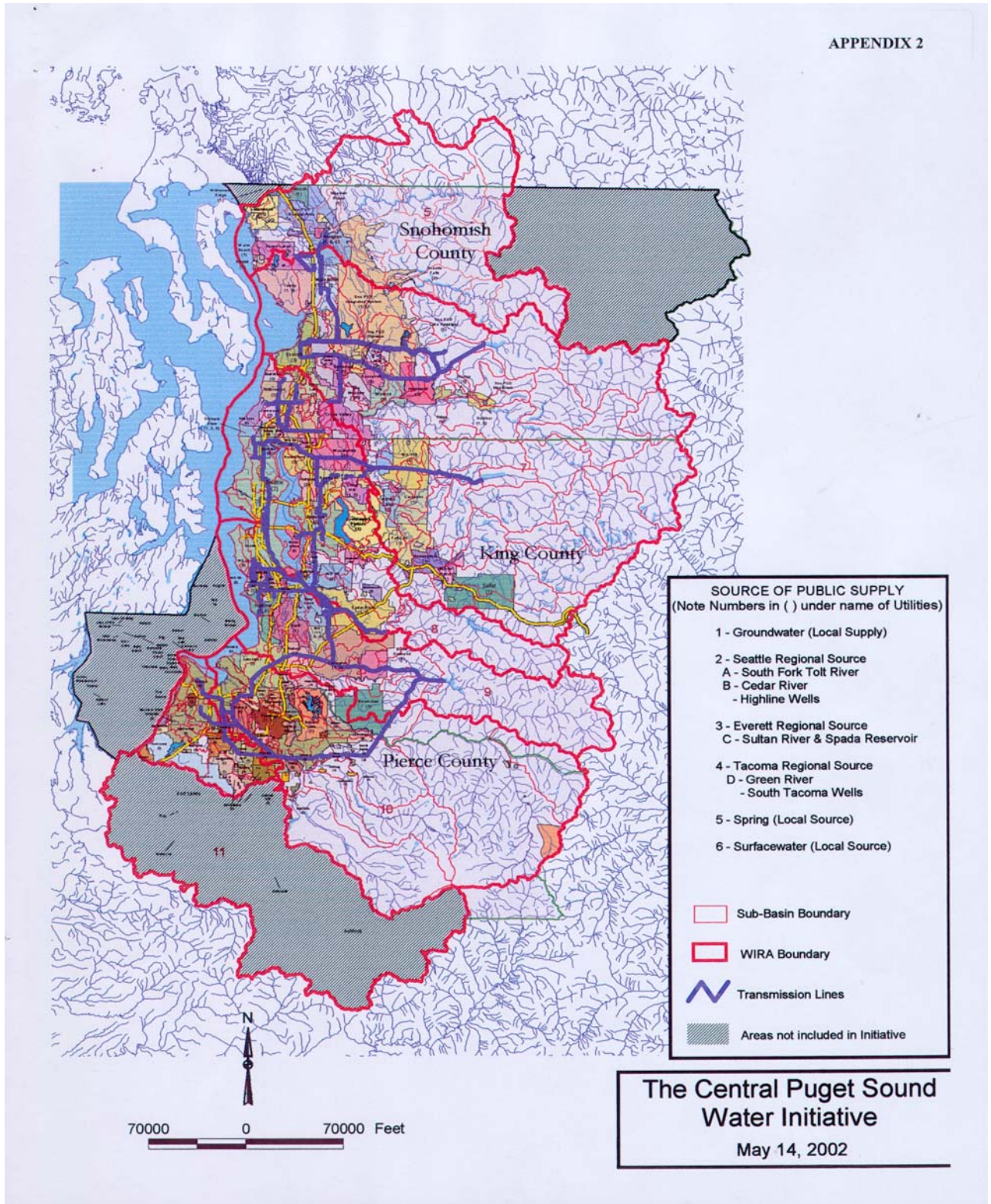
- Litigation in only a few basins where agreement is not reached
- There is flexibility for growing communities, for saving water, and for changes to water rights
- Crises have helped/not hurt progress towards success
- Intergovernmental relations are healthy/supportive of success

Water Strategy Elements

- Legislation
- Regional initiatives and plans
- Funding
- Administrative actions
- Other executive actions
- Managing the water strategy
- Judicial action

APPENDIX #2

APPENDIX 2



APPENDIX #3
CENTRAL PUGET SOUND WATER INITIATIVE SCHEDULE

May	Form <u>Early Action Work Groups</u>	Form <u>Long Range Strategy Work Group</u>	<u>Operations Group</u> solicits comments to Straw Proposal	Form <u>Advisory Groups</u> (Fiscal, Legal, Sustainability)
June	Develop Initial Workplans and Goals	Review straw proposal comments; schedule Work Group meeting	Comments due <u>6/15</u> . Summarize and distribute to Work Groups.	Consult with Work Groups as appropriate
July	Identify & evaluate current and proposed projects	Meet with Early Action Groups & Operations Group, review goals & projects		
August	Initial progress report	Initial recommendations to Operations Group	Review Early Action reports; prepare Draft Strategy. Prepare budget request to Legislature.	
September			Budget request to Leg. Draft Strategy distributed for comments.	
October	Prepare progress report and recommendations for Long Range Strategy	Review Draft Strategy comments; schedule Work Group meeting	Comments due; review & summarize for Work Groups	
November	Submit reports & recommendations	Work Groups meet: review Early Action Program & recommendations	Review Early Action Program; begin preparation of Final Strategy	
December		Prepare Final Strategy and Action Plan	Budget review in Legislature. Final Strategy distributed.	
January				
February	Begin transition to Long Range Strategy; report status of Early Action components		Evaluate Early Action Program. Begin implementation of Long Range Strategy and Action Plan	
March		Implement Long Strategy and Action Plan		

